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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 26
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 4.13 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and issued as document A/55/6/Rev.1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 (Introduction, Sects. 1-33 and Income sects. 1-3). It was revised and approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/253 and 56/254 of 24 December 2001.

4. By its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, the General Assembly endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001. Subsequently, by its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, having the functions recommended by the Secretary-General in his report (A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2), including, in particular, coordination and advocacy.

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5. Pursuant to these decisions of the General Assembly, the narrative of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 for the Office of the High Representative is proposed in the annex as a new programme 26, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. The narrative is based on the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action and the functions of the High Representative as described in the report of the Secretary-General. Taking into account the importance attached by Member States to the establishment of the Office of the High Representative as an identifiable entity within the Secretariat under the leadership of a high-level official, it was considered that the medium-term plan of the Office should be presented as a separate programme. It should also be noted that, in line with the decision of the General Assembly to establish the Office of the High Representative and in order to avoid duplication of the work carried out by the Organization to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, revisions to subprogramme 5 of programme 9, Trade and development, are submitted separately (see A/57/6 (Prog. 9)).

6. There is no specialized oversight body for the new programme. The narrative is submitted directly to the central reviewing bodies.

Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 26, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Overall orientation

26.1 The legislative authority for the programme derives from General Assembly resolutions 55/279, by which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 20 May 2001, and 56/227 of 24 December 2001, by which the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, having the functions recommended by the Secretary-General in his report.

26.2 The Programme of Action contains a set of seven specific commitments made by the least developed countries and their development partners. These commitments relate to the following areas: fostering a people-centred policy framework; good governance at the national and international levels; building human and institutional capacities; building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries; enhancing the role of trade in development; reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment; and mobilizing financial resources.

26.3 Pursuant to those commitments, this programme aims at enhancing the mobilization and galvanization of international support for and ensuring the effective coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the donor community and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The programme seeks to build a global advocacy role to ensure that the issues of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States remain high on the international agenda. The programme will mobilize international support for issues such as the eradication of poverty, capacity-building, acceleration of economic growth and sustainable development and the promotion of progressive and beneficial global economic integration of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through efficient, effective and highly visible follow-up, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

26.4 The programme will also contribute to the implementation of the relevant and related development goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General entitled "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/56/326), as well as the goals and targets of major global conferences and summits in respect of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Objective

26.5 Since the establishment of the group of least developed countries in 1971, the number of countries in this category has increased from 25 to 49. The overarching objective of this programme is to reverse the trend by assisting countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Strategy

26.6 Substantive responsibility for the implementation of the programme is vested in the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

26.7 The strategy for achieving the objective of the programme will include the following main elements:

(a) Ensuring the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 at the country, regional and global levels;

(b) Establishing and maintaining linkages with other parts of the United Nations system, including the

United Nations Development Group, the executive committees, the regional commissions and the relevant arrangements established under the aegis of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

(c) Coordinating the system of focal points on the least developed countries in individual organizations;

(d) Reviewing and analysing reports on country-level implementation;

(e) Providing support to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in assessing progress and in conducting annual reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and supporting, as appropriate, the coordinated follow-up of the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the donor community and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(f) Assisting in the mobilization of international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and other programmes and initiatives for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(g) Undertaking advocacy work in favour of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in partnership with the relevant entities of the United Nations as well as with civil society, the media, academia, foundations and the private sector;

(h) Providing support to group consultations of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and facilitating their effective participation in the relevant intergovernmental processes;

(i) Establishing close coordination with the multilateral organizations involved in the development of the least developed countries in Africa, particularly in the context of the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

(j) Assisting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to establish, at the country level, effective mechanisms for the follow-up of the implementation of the Programme of Action and other related programmes in their respective countries;

(k) Promoting South-South cooperation among the countries of these three groups through, inter alia, the sharing of experiences and best practices.

Expected accomplishments

26.8 The expected accomplishment would be the effective implementation of the commitments and policies in the Brussels Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners.

Indicators of achievement

26.9 The indicators of achievement would include:

(a) An increase in the number of activities carried out by the countries concerned and their development partners that address issues focusing on the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(b) Enhanced coordination within the United Nations system as well as with other relevant multilateral organizations, as evidenced by an increase in institutional arrangements for the implementation, monitoring and review of the Brussels Programme of Action;

(c) Increased participation of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in intergovernmental processes.

Legislative mandates

Programme 26
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

General Assembly resolutions

55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
56/227	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Economic and Social Council decision

2001/320	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010